

# INFORMATION REPORT

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Memorandum: Concerning a conference with President Wandel of the German Administration for People's Education, on August 16, 1948.

Subject: Prospects of development of the German Administrative Academy

On August 16th of this year, President Wandel developed in a conversation the following thoughts for the further development of the Academy-- after which he inquired about the status of development of preparatory work of the Academy for the fall term:

I. He emphasized the extraordinarily poor situation in the universities of the zone, particularly in the law faculties. He said, for example, that such was the case in the training situation for lawyers in Mecklenburg; that Greifswald University had no law faculty at all; and that the law faculty of Rostock University was so badly staffed that one had to recognize clearly that an orderly study of the upper semesters for law students was no longer guaranteed there. Even if he could not decide, on general principles of university policy, to adopt the proposal of a complete closing of certain or all law faculties of the zone and universities (as the Central Justice Administration demands), he would however be forced to order, for example in the case of Rostock, that the upperclassmen would not be allowed to carry on their studies in Rostock. A similar situation also existed in Jena and Halle.

From this situation we are faced with two problems:

1. the necessity to establish firmly, in some way, the orderly improvement and further development of law students.
2. to develop, as soon as possible, "new blood" among suitable professors for the universities.

In this connection, President Wandel intends to make use of the DVA in the following ways:

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1. All career administrative law candidates must unconditionally, after basic law training in a university, attend the long courses at the DVA, and finish their training there.
2. The DVA should organize, within a reasonable period of time, a separate course (numerically very small) for the purpose of training the staffs for the law faculties of the zone. In this course, the emphasis should lie less on a decidedly technical, specialized training, but much more on the "education" of professors of "new blood" for the universities, from the standpoint of working over legal topics in light of present economic and political conditions.

The purpose of the course must be to train scholarly, highly qualified persons, who, however, might blend their "scholarship" in direct combination with present-day life, and therefore might be in a position to educate a really new democratic type of judge.

As the supreme authority of scholarly training in the realm of jurisprudence, President Wandel intends to enlarge the present Institute for Legal Philosophy in Berlin (Professor Baumgarten in charge), which then should become a college of progressive scholars of law. He considers it necessary that the guidance of the law faculty of the Academy be included in this Institute.

- II. Generally, President Wandel held the view that the problem must be solved in the "Jurisprudence and Administrative Instruction Branch" of the DVA, to educate technically qualified jurists (academic or People's Judges) sociologically, and thereby to give their professional practice a realistic basis, and in addition to give to politically reliable administrative employees the opportunity to complete the necessary knowledge for their profession.

President Wandel was told that this assignment of functions had already been taken into consideration and that this fact is clear from a comparison of the curriculum for jurists with the one for administrative employees. President Wandel expressed his satisfaction.

- III. As a broader problem concerning the DVA, approaching possibly in the future, President Wandel announced the organization of either a separate course, or the admission of graduates of the sociological faculty of the universities in general accelerated courses, who should receive in the DVA their final political and scientific polish, as it were.

- IV. In conclusion, President Wandel proposed that it be taken into consideration, through the treatment of decidedly or preponderantly political subjects, to insert the party organization into the DVA, and in connection with the instruction efforts in the framework of the party organization, to discuss with the students questions, particularly of important and current political mistakes.

- V. When it was hinted that the problem of permanent professors and assistants was still not satisfactorily solved, President Wandel stressed again that it would be the responsibility of the DVA to seek out suitable forces in the universities and other institutions of the zone, and that he would be prepared to transfer to the DVA any person whose services were required.

He named, in this connection, the former chairman of the student council in Halle, one Böttger, as a man to be considered, with whom one ought to speak, and, if the occasion arises, one who should be tried out. Moreover he recommended that lists of the professors and assistants in the universities should be furnished and examined, and after consultation with appropriate state and party officials, suitable people should be selected, who, if the situation arises, should be developed first in one of the separate courses of the Academy mentioned in paragraph I.

- VI. President Wandel stressed again that with respect to the preparation of instruction, he wanted to secure the beginning of instruction at the DVA by the 1st of October.

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When it was pointed out that a prospect could be held out for the realization of this goal, but that not very much, however, has been gained for the effective beginning of the teaching machinery in view of the still-existent material difficulties, he said that it was clear to him, but that he was primarily interested in being able to establish the conclusion of the preparation, and that he will also take a more active part in providing the necessary material requirements.

He held out prospects of shortly convening a meeting of all competent people responsible for the material prerequisites of the teaching machinery of the Academy.

VII From the entire conversation the impression was gathered that President Mandel now had increased interest in the Academy (and particularly on the basis of his impressions of the conference of the Ministers of Religion and Education in Hiddensee). He stressed several times the great function of the Academy and its importance, and stated that he would energetically explain the importance of the Academy to other officials.

In this connection, President Mandel also stressed that at present, in view of the Berlin situation, he considered favorable the location of the Academy, which was some distance from Berlin; but as a permanent arrangement after the settlement of the Berlin political situation (which he hoped was to be expected shortly) the retention of the Academy at such a distance would not be desirable. In a broader perspective, an eye should be kept on the shifting of the Academy to Berlin after the clearing-up of the Berlin situation.

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